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STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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## **Strategic Growth Initiative (SGI) Grant Program**

(updated June 2015)

### **PROGRAM GOAL**

The overall goal of the Strategic Growth Initiative Grant Program is to increase the economic impact of the Food and Agriculture Industry in Michigan.

### **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

This initiative has been developed to focus on removing existing barriers and leveraging opportunities identified by food processors, agri-business, and those in agricultural production as critical to business development and growth. Projects should identify ways to validate new and improved innovations for emerging issues and allow for the sharing of information to benefit the industry and stakeholders.

All communications concerning this RFP should be sent via e-mail to:  
[mda-grants@michigan.gov](mailto:mda-grants@michigan.gov).

### **PROGRAM PRIORITIES**

Applications for funding should describe how the project impacts the Michigan food and agriculture industry. The project must produce measurable outcome(s) for the growth of the food and agriculture industry and/or the public, rather than a single organization or individual.

Grant funds will not be awarded for projects that solely benefit a particular commercial product or provide a profit to a single organization or individual. Awards are a maximum amount of \$200,000, and only one proposal per applicant will be considered. Matching funds are encouraged, but not required.

MDARD will be measuring and reporting on the economic impact, job creation and innovation of this program.

Priority will be given to projects that identify a scope of work that includes one or more of the following as it relates to the food and agriculture industry:

1. Talent/Workforce Development (i.e. training activities)
2. Infrastructure/Logistics (i.e. broadband access)
3. Feasibility Studies (i.e. enhancing value added capacity)

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY

- **Agricultural Cooperative:** A group-owned or member-owned entity or business that provides, offers, or sells agricultural products or services for the mutual benefit of the members thereof.
- **Producer Network:** A producer group- or member-owned organization or business that provides, offers, or sells agricultural products or services through a common distribution system for the mutual benefit of the members thereof.
- **Producer Associations:** An organization or other business that assists, serves, or represents producers or a producer network.
- **Nonprofit Corporation:** Any organization or institution defined by Michigan Public Act 162 of 1982.
- **Business Entities:** An organization as defined by Michigan Public Act 23 of 1993, who is in good standing with the state of Michigan and whose primary function involves the production, processing or marketing of Michigan grown agricultural products.
- **Economic Development Organizations:** An organization whose mission is the improvement, maintenance, development and/or marketing or promotion of a specific geographic area.
- **Educational Institutions:** Institutions of higher education and/or research institutions and service providers.

## Program Process

Eligible applicants will be required to submit an application no later than 3pm EST on July 22, 2015. The required fillable application is available on the MDARD website [www.michigan.gov/mdard](http://www.michigan.gov/mdard)

Applications are limited to five-pages, 12 point Arial font with one inch margins. Please complete all sections of the application and limit your application to a total of 5 pages.

This grant is based on cost reimbursement and projects will have an approximate start date of September 30, 2015 and end date of December 31, 2016. Each grantee will be required to submit written reports, invoices and copies of paid receipts to MDARD for payment. All applicants must be registered as a vendor in the Contracts and Payments System with the State of Michigan. Prior to grant approval, the applicant must be registered. Please register: [www.cpexpress.state.mi.us](http://www.cpexpress.state.mi.us)

Grant funds **cannot** be used to pay for the acquisition of land or the purchase, construction, or structural repair of a building or facility.

Indirect costs are **not** allowable under this grant program. Indirect costs are defined as the expenses of doing business that are not readily identified within the project, but are necessary for the general operation of the organization and the implementation proposal related activities.

MDARD reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to reject an application if it:

- ✓ Does not meet the mandates including scope, eligibility, and allowable grant fund use
- ✓ Is received after the deadline
- ✓ Is incomplete or missing any of the required forms, narrative, and budget
- ✓ Does not follow the outlined application requirements

Additionally, an application will be rejected (after submission or prior to award) if information comes to MDARD's attention that:

- ✓ It has been determined an organization is ineligible for an award
- ✓ The application is materially misleading or incorrect
- ✓ Indicates fraud or mismanagement of federal or state funds by the organization